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INFORMATION REPORT

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SUBJECT Meeting of Cadres, Schaerbeek Section,
Belgian Communist Party, on 7 and 21
December 1948

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. The 7 December and the 21 December meetings of the cadres, Schaerbeek Section, Belgian Communist Party, indicate concern over the financial situation of the section and over the unemployment situation in Belgium. The necessity for union membership was stressed at both meetings, and there were the usual discussions of means of increasing the sale of communist publications.
2. a. Present at the 7 December meeting were Victor Haest (Political Secretary of the Schaerbeek Section), Suzanne Gregoire (Communist Senator 1947-1948; removed from the Central Committee at the 9th National Congress of the BCP in May 1948), Charles Snoers (Treasurer of the Schaerbeek Section), Georges Lechein, Georges Debischop (Press Director of the Schaerbeek Section), Joseph Demesmaecker, Richard Viaene, Jean-Baptiste Dewil (Education Director of the Schaerbeek Section), Mariette Reynders (elected Communal Councillor at Schaerbeek 24 November 1946), Edmond Koucke, Marie Guisse, Amelia Baetens, Georges Lauwerier, Charles Vanbesin, Gustave Francois and his wife, Fonnnet (fnu), Michel Savoir, Flore Dethy, Rachel Brinckhuysen and an individual identified only as Elvire.
- b. Members were informed in a report made by Snoers that the financial situation of the section was precarious. The section had borrowed 2,000 francs from the press fund. The money obtained from press shares and the sale of publications went into a special account and thus was of no help. It was proposed that the special press and literature funds each contribute 50 francs a month toward rent. Attention was directed to the problem of several non-Belgian Party members who felt the necessity for resigning because of police surveillance of their activities. It was agreed that such individuals, if they continued to remit secretly their dues, might be excused from attendance at meetings. Particular reference was made to the case of Szilana Hajster, whom members were asked not to visit because she was under police surveillance. Mention was made of the fact that all CP members should belong to unions. Individuals engaged in clothing, textile, skins and leather, food, hotel, tobacco and similar industries were told to join their respective unions. Those in the metallurgical, literary, building, transportation and public service fields were advised to sign up with the FGIB. Gregoire asked that instances of non-compliance be brought before the Section which would then inform the Federation. Haest requested that an intensive propaganda campaign for the local paper be conducted. It was decided that on 19 December a truck bearing publicity posters would be sent out, to be

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followed by newsvendors.

3. a. The 21 December 1948 cadre meeting was attended by the President, Leplat (fnu), Victor Maest, Jean-Baptiste Dewil, Georges Lechein, Gustave Francois and his wife, Charles Snoers, Suzanne Gregoire, Edmond Koucke, Georges Lauwerier, Adam (fnu), Lelle. (sic) Rousseau, Georges Debischop, Charles Vanbesin, Flehiers (fnu) the younger, Joseph Demesmaecker, Francois Van Scheepdael (elected Communal Councillor 24 November 1946, most influential and active section member), Stasse (fnu), and Richard Viaene.

b. Dewil reported on the unemployment situation in Belgium. Proposals for the publication and distribution of the report were considered. Gregoire announced that "La Solidarite", a Communist-controlled cultural group in which the BCP has a source of future members and supporters, would collaborate with the CP in aiding the unemployed. Snoers requested that aid be extended to the peasants in nearby sections, in order to preclude the possibility of their seeking employment at too low a wage level and thereby causing more unemployment. He also declared that the Party should watch the activities of the Syndicats Chretiens, which were carrying on a campaign against foreigners. Various press questions were next considered. A special sale of drapeau Rouge was planned, and the next sale of La Commune discussed. Finally, Lechoin requested the questionnaires for the 1949 cards, stating that if these were not received soon the cards could not be issued on schedule. Members were informed that the 1949 party cards would not be issued to those who were in a position to join a union and who had not done so. An extra session devoted to the union question was scheduled for 4 January. The names of 4 new members of the section were announced. They were Marie Jeanne Claes (born at Schaerbeek 21 November 1926; address 12 Petite Rue de l'Alivier; joined the Party 1 October 1948); Antoine Dudicq (born Brussels 26 June 1910; address 49 rue Camille Wallis; messenger at the Communal Administration of Schaerbeek; joined the Party 1 November 1948); Albert Cliquart (born Jette 21 June 1916; address 63 rue F. Stercks; communal employee, Schaerbeek; joined the Party 1 November 1948); Elie Lagneau (born Molenbeek 29 May 1898; address 118 rue Frans Courtens; warehousekeeper for Communal Administration, Schaerbeek; joined the Party 1 November 1948).

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